

# NU anxious to face Baylor

By JAY SAUNDERS  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's tennis team enters the inaugural Big 12 Conference Tournament with a lot of questions to answer.

Such as, will Andrew Wiese be able to make a full comeback from an ankle injury? But mostly, what will it take for the Huskers to accomplish their goal of making their regional tournament?

Nebraska is the ninth seed of the tournament which begins today in Austin, Texas and will play the seventh-seed Baylor at 9 a.m.

NU did not know its first-round opponent until Wednesday when Texas Tech defeated Texas A&M to set up NU's matchup with the Bears.

Coach Kerry McDermott said NU is ready to play anyone at this point of the season.

"Our guys are just anxious to get back into the win column," McDermott said.

Baylor beat the Huskers 5-2 in a dual this year in Lincoln. That match was played indoors, which will not be the case this weekend. All the matches are scheduled to be played outdoors on the UT campus.

"We are a much better outdoor team," McDermott said. "There is more pressure on them than us. We have nowhere to go but up."

Focus has switched from the team's earlier goal of making the Region Five Tournament to making a good showing at the Big 12 Tournament. A win in the first round will help heal the wounds of a rough season, McDermott said, and will give NU an opportunity to play No. 1-seed Texas.

"It would make our season to win

the first-round match," McDermott said. "Everyone is just excited to get into the Big 12 Tournament. Anything else after the first round would be icing on the cake."

The Huskers will be without the services of two of their top six singles players.

Wiese is continuing to battle a nagging ankle injury that will limit him to only playing doubles. Wiese's doubles partner, Todd Nicholl, will not make the trip to Austin because of disciplinary problems, McDermott said.

McDermott said sophomore Roshan Fernando, Henrick Andersson and Dino Tappara will compete for spots in the singles lineup. No matter what the lineup is, NU is ready to play.

"We are prepared as we ever will be," McDermott said. "There is excitement in the air."

## Huskers begin with Cyclones

NU's top player must play through pain in tournament.

By JAY SAUNDERS  
Staff Reporter

One might think the Nebraska women's tennis team would be satisfied after compiling its best regular season record in 18 years.

But heading into the first-ever Big 12 Conference Tournament, the Cornhuskers are still looking to accomplish even more.

NU, the sixth seed, will face 11th-seeded Iowa State in the first round at 1:30 p.m. today in Austin, Texas. The Huskers earned the sixth seed after compiling a 15-8 record. That is the best regular-season record since 1979 when freshman Gina Pelazini was just four months old.

"Any time you have a chance like this it is great for your program," NU Coach Scott Jacobson said. "Hopefully we can keep rolling and get stronger."

The match against ISU seems on paper to be a breeze for the Huskers. Even though NU beat the Cyclones 9-0 in February, Jacobson said the Huskers can't afford to overlook ISU.

"They are so much stronger than their results show," Jacobson said. "I think the kids expect to come out on top, but this is not a cakewalk."

A win against Iowa State will give NU a rematch with Texas A&M in the second round. The Aggies dropped the

"It would be great if we can win two rounds."

SCOTT JACOBSON  
NU women's tennis coach

Huskers 7-2 in a dual at College Station also in February. A win against A&M will not only help NU advance in the tournament, but could also give the Huskers a berth in the Region Five Tournament.

"It would be great if we can win two rounds," Jacobson said. "I don't think the kids feel they have played their best tennis yet. We can beat them (A&M), but first we have to get through ISU."

Before NU can get through anybody, the Huskers need to take a look at the health of the team. Nebraska has been healthy all season long, but it may be without its top player at the most important time of the season.

No. 1 singles player Sandra Noetzel injured her groin muscle in a match last weekend, Jacobson said, and her condition is day-to-day. Jacobson said he has the feeling Noetzel will fight through the pain to play.

"I am sure she will play in pain if she has to," Jacobson said. "She wants to play, but if she is incapable of playing we won't put her on the court."

## Tech leaves NU winless on the road

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska baseball team remained winless in true road games this season, losing to Texas Tech 13-6 and 8-6 on Wednesday.

The first loss was a completion of Tuesday's suspended contest. NU (22-28 overall and 4-14 in the Big 12 Conference) trailed 11-6 in the eighth before rain postponed Tuesday night's contest. The game was completed Wednesday with Tech (40-5 and 20-4) winning 13-6.

In the nightcap before 4,000 fans at Dan Law Field, Tech jumped on NU starter Jay Sirianni (1-1), scoring seven runs in the first four innings.

The Huskers rallied in the top of the seventh, scoring six runs — the most scored in an inning against the top-ranked Red Raiders this season — to cut the deficit to 7-6. But Tech scored once in the bottom of the eighth and Brad Ralston came in to earn his fifth save by striking out two batters in the ninth.

Jonas Armenta pitched the final five innings for NU, allowing just one earned run on six hits.

In the first game, NU batters had 13 hits — including five extra-base hits — but only scored six runs.

NU returns home from a six-game road trip with a six-game losing streak to play No. 15 Oklahoma in a three-game series this weekend.

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